NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1868.

WASHINGTON.

DISCUSSION OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT AF-FAIRS IN THE SENATE-RUMOR THAT THE RECONSTRUCTION ACTS ARE TO BE PRO-NOUNCED UNCONSTITUTIONAL BY THE SU-PREME COURT - THE PERKINS CLAIM AGAINST RUSSIA-PRESENTATION OF GOLD

BY TRANSPARENT TO THE TRIBUTE. WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 1868. There was nothing done in the Senate to-day, and no disposition was manifested to hasten the consideration of important business. Soon after the Senate convened, Mr. Sherman called up the House joint resolution requiring that certain moneys in the hands of the Treasurer, arising out of the sale of seized and abandoned property, &c., be covered by warrant into the Treasury. This resolution will also secure the large amount of specie captured with Jeff. Davis in the latter part of the war. Mr. Trumbull spoke for nearly two hours against the administrathe Treasury Department, and made serious charges against the present Although the matter been discussed in both Houses to unusual and unnatural length, it appears that arguments must yet be lengthened on the subject. Mr-Sherman suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Retrenchment. Mr. Fessenden wanted it to go over, as he desired to make a speech on it, but was unable to do so to-day. Secretary Seward was on the floor of the Senate for a long time to-day in consultation with Mr. Sumner and others.

The House of Representatives yesterday called on the Secretary of State for the documents in the claim of Capt. Perkins against Russia. The papers to be furnished by the Secretary will show that just before the termination of the Crimean War, B. W. Perkins of Worcester, Mass., proposed to the Russian En basador at Washington to furnish a shipload of powder and rifles for the use of the Russian army. The Embassador referred him to an accredited agent, who contracted with Capt. Perkins for ammunition and arms valued at \$200,000, the risk of capture as contraband of war, freight and all expenses to be borne by Perkins, who was to charge 100 per cent profit in consideration of the risk. The powder was or shipboard in Boston Harber and the arms in pro of transhipment when peace was declared. The Russian agent then declined any further action in the business and threw the property on the hands of Perkins, who afterward put in a claim for \$390,000 as his due. The Russian Government having deelined payment, the widow of Capt. Perkins, who died in poverty, asks that the amount of his claim be deducted from the sum to be paid for Walrussia.

The Philadelphia delegation of citizens, mentioned in these dispatches last night, called upon the President to-day and presented him with a large gold The gift is from the Philadelphia Constitution Club, representing old and highly respectable citizens. The Chairman, Mr. Hagner, has lived during the administration of every President since the formation of the Government, and is the son of a Revolutionary soldier, Capt. P. B. Hagner, who was in the battle of Trenton. In presenting the medal

Mr. Hagner said:

Mr. President, Sir: As a Committee of the First Constitution Club of Pennsylvania, organized for mutual aid in defending the Constitution of the United States, we have been deputed to hand you a copy of a preamble and resolution adopted at a meeting of the Club held on the 2d inst, together with this medal, upon which a suitable inscription will be found struck in commemoration of the noble stand you have taken in support of that Constitution, the work of great, good, and patriotic men whose memory we cherish and with whom the self-called champions of this age of progress, who are confessedly "acting outside of it," will not bear comparison. The organization we represent reverence that sacred instrument, and believe that to the neglect of an honest and strict construction of it is to be traced all the trouble and misfortunes which have afflicted us in the present crisis. It has been decided to offer for your acceptance this testimonial of our approbation, so that whatever may be the result of the malevolence of the times, there shall be in your own hands the means of passing down to posterity the indestructible evidence of the unbiassed opinion of a portion of your cotemporaries, representing, as they believe, the vast majority of your countrymen. One of the most profound of your predecessors, in a pothumus work recently given to the world, in speaking of the most prominent leader of the old Federal party, says no man better understood than he that the invivolate sanctity of a written Constitution was the life of a republican government, and defend it. tion was the life of a republican government, and that its days were numbered the moment its people and rulers ceased to preserve, protect, and defend it. You, sir, have manfully thrown yourself forward in defense of our written Constitution from the assaults of its foes; and be assured that, if time shall be given for a formal expression of the popular will, and that expression be allowed its full weight, your cforts will be crowned with precininent success. If this be not done, then it is to you alone, in the exercise of your great office, in which in this behalf you have thus far been so clear, that anxious states and confiding peoples can look for their defense and protection. They will not see him struck down who is so gallantly battling in their behalf. Knowing the preciousness of your time, and partially aware of the multiplicity of your engagements, we will now conclude our duty by invoking the high assistance of the Great Ruler of principalities and powers, and praying that He may so strengthen your hands in all the hours of your trial that the embattled hosts arrayed against you may be scattered like chaff before the wind.

Mr. Johnson responded briefly by recognizing this

Mr. Johnson responded briefly by recognizing this appreciation of his course as a public man and as the Executive of the nation. He would accept the gift and treasure it as an evidence of regard for his efforts to perform his duty, and he hoped his future acts would prove that this confidence has not been misplaced. The medal is about three inches in diameter and half an inch thick, and has on one side a well-executed profile likeness of Mr. Johnson, with

"Andrew Johnson: born Dec. 29, 1808; inaugurated resident U. S. A. April 15, 1865."

And on the other side a branch of oak leaves and an olive branch with an inscription between these as "With courage and fidelity he defended the Constitu-tion, and through justice and magnanimity restored alicointed States."

A gold-headed cane was presented to the President to-night at the Carroll Hall Catholic Fair. It was the result of a vote, the person receiving the greatest number to have the cane presented him. There was an unusually large number of visitors at the White House to-day, among them Gens. Sherman and

Harney, and between 20 and 30 Congressmen. The Senate, in a brief Executive Session this af ternoon, referred to-day's nominations to the appropriate committees, and rejected Francis W. Boyle, heretofore nominated for Assessor of the Twelfth

District of Pennsylvania. At a dinner given by Gen. Grant last Monday, Mr. Stanton was among the guests. His presence there is taken as a contradiction of the report that the ex-Secretary and his successor have a quarrel on hand.

The Military Committee of the Senate resumed today the consideration of Senator Howard's report and discussed it until 12 o'clock. It will be taken up again to-morrow, and it is expected that a decision will be reached in a few days. It is understood that Senator Doolittle, who is on the Committee, dissents in toto from the views of the other members of the Committee, and will ask to be allowed to present a

minority report. The Senate Finance Committee instructed their Chairman to-day to report adversely on a bill introduced by Senator Conness, refunding the duties on goods destroyed by fire in the original packages. The bill was intended to cover a case which occurred several years ago in California, and which involves sev-

eral hundred thousand dollars. The banquet in commemoration of the battle of New-Orleans, this evening, in this city, was attended

by about 400 gentlemen, as noisily enthusiastics and demonstrative as any Democratic assembly in the olden palmy days of that party. Judge Dunlop presided, and in his speecch compared "the old" with "the new;" told Mr. Johnson, on his right. that he was "the living Jackson," and that on him all their hopes, the hopes of their children and of their country, depended. Col. Tom. Florence was quite enthusiastic and demonstrative. He fluttered at every allusion to the President, waved immaculate napkin over the head of that high dignitary and cheered approvingly at the utterances of Black and Stanbery and Doolittle. The President contented himself with reading by deputy a sentiment uttered a year ago

which did not, strange to say, contain an allusion to the different offices he had successively filled Mr. Stanbery's speech was the boldest and most remarkable speech of the evening. He denounced the reconstruction policy of Congress, and said that they could not stand law. He was rather surprised to find himself addressing a Democratic meeting, and said that he was an Old Whig, tragically pointing to a melancholy-looking picture of Henry Clay which hung behind the chairman. The assemblage did not break up until about I o'clock, when it was in a very

jubilant condition. Members of Congress and others here are some what excited over a rumor that the Supreme Court, at an early day, will reverse its decision of last Spring declaring that it had no jurisdiction regarding the legality of the Reconstruction laws of Congress. A new case, involving the constitutionality of the Reconstruction acts of Congress, is to be brought up in the Supreme Court in a few days, and it is asserted that the Court will decide said acts unconstitutional, and all operations under the same null and void. The case will involve the State of Mississippi, and the decision of the Court, it is said, will be that Mississippi is a legally in the Union, as much so as New-York or any other State. This matter has been the chief topic of conversation among members to-day, and has created quite a sensation. The Postmaster-General has addressed a letter to

the Director-General of the posts of France, in

which he says the recent improved arrangements for

the exchange of correspondence between the United

States and Great Britain, and between the United

States and several countries on the Continent of

Europe, have now gone into effect, and the changes and modify many of the provisions of the existing postal convention between the United States and France. The Postmaster-General informs the Director-General of his desire to avail himself of the power reserved by Article 17 of the Postal Convenpower reserved by Article 17 of the Postal Conven-tion, between the United States and France, signed at Washington in March, 1857, to abrogate the same by a previous notice of one year, and he accordingly conveys to him the wish and intention of the Department that the articles of the said Convention shall cease to have effect on the 1st of February, 1869. He says to have effect on the 1st of February, 1868. He says he shall, as early as practicable, communicate to him a statement of the modification which seemed to be required for the amelioration of the public service between the two countries. In the mean time, the Postmaster-General says he should be especially gratified to know that the Director-General would send to the Post-Office Department an agent authorized to acter mean the resultations of a new Convention.

ized to enter upon the negotiations of a new Conven-tion in this city. He would be glad to offer him every facility in his power to enable him to conclude the business with which he shall be charged. The President to-day sent to the Senate the fol-

lowing nominations:

Benj. C. Nixon, Postmaster, Jeffersonville, Indiana;
John Robertson, Postmaster, Lisbon, Ohio; Joseph S.
Collins, Postmaster, Fort Randall, Dakota; William G.
Powers, Postmaster, Mount Vernon, Iowa; Philip B.
Fouke, Naval Officer, New-Orleans; Elisha B. Hamilton,
Surveyor of Customs at Quincy, Illinois; Thomas N.
Stillwell of Indiana, Minister resident at Venezuela, he
having been appointed during the recess; B. F. Chadler,
Civil Engineer in the Navy, for the Navy-Yard Service;
John B. Jones, Pension agent at Fort Gibson, Cherokee
Country; E. S. Davis of Nevada, Register of the Land
Office at Austin, Nevada; James W. Henderson, Register
of the Land Office at Humboldt, California; Saruuel P.
Damels of Indiana, Receiver of Public Moneys at Indianapolis; Nicholas Calian and Terence Drury, to be Justices of the Peace in and for the County of Washington.

The Supreme Court of the District has decided a

The Supreme Court of the District has decided a patent case involving the right to make wells by driving a pipe or rod into the ground in favor of Col. N. W. Green of Portageville, New-York.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.-The President sent a message to the House to-day, in answer to a resolution concerning the alleged interference, by a Russian man-of-war, with the vessels of the United States in the Otchotsk Sea. The Russian having warned out of the bays near Shauter Island certain American whale-ships which were found there, one of them, not replying with sufficient promptness, was fired at with solid shot, where upon she took her departure. These facts were communcated to the State Department by Mr. Chase, vice commercial agent in the Amoor country. Mr. Weeks of Massachusetts also communicated to Mr. Seward a letter from Capt. Thomas, master of the ship Europa, stating that that and other vessels, while cruising for whales, had been disturbed by a Russian vessel, and invoking the protection of this Government. Mr. Seward, on the 23d of December, addressed a letter to Mr. Stoeckel, asking whether the latter had received any information upon the subject. Mr. Stoeckel replied, on the 28th of December, that he had reason to believe the incident in question was the result of exaggeration, and that he would

THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY BANQUET. WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 .- The fifty-third amiersary of the battle of New-Orleans was celebrated by a banquet this evening at the Metropolitan Hotel in this partments, most of the Democratic Archiver's Congress and many distinguished guests were present. A com-pany of about 300 sat down to dinner. The dining hal-was appropriately decorated. The columns were cov-ered with the national bunting, and two large paintings of Jackson and Clay hung at either side of the table of

honor.

The Hon. Judge Dunlop presided, and, on assuming that position, made a stirring speech; after which the company set to work in disposing of the good things placed before them, an hour being spent in that way. Mr. Jonah D. Hoover, Chairman of the Compatite of Arrangements, announced the letters received by the committee from distinguished persons who had been invited.

After the reading of the letters, the toast of "The mem

mittee from distinguished persons who had been invited.

After the reading of the letters, the toast of "The memory of Andrew Jackson, a great general, a greater states man and magistrate," was announced by Col. Thomas B. Florence, and duly honored.

The next toast, "The sth of January, 1815—an era in our national life worthy of perpetual commemoration," was responded to by the Hon Jeremiah Black of Fennsylvania, Ex-Attorney-General. He said there was no day in the year except the 4th of July that ought to be kept so sacred as the sth of January, and that except the Father of his Country, there was no name known among men which was entitled to higher reverence than that of Andrew Jackson (Applause.) The life of Andrew Jackson was one long battle with the enemies of constitutional freedom. (Applause.) He had been assalled with every species of slander, and even to this day the foul birds, who had screamed around him in his lifetime, and others hatched from the same stock, liked to degrade and defile him. One of the most imperious aspersions heaped on him was that by which the Radical party had attempted to make him authority for their own attempts to trample on liberty and law. If there was any truth in that aspersion, then was Gen. Jackson utterly unworthy of the honor which the American people, all over the country, were at this moment be stowing upon him. Mr. Black went on at length to disprove the assertion that Gen. Jackson was not a law-abiding citizen.

Mr. Hoover then proposed "The Health of Andrew Johnson. President of the United States."

The toast was read with great cheering and applause, and Mr. Johnson was induced to advance to the space from which Judge Black had just spoken. After the uproar had subsided, Mr. Johnson said:

GENTLEMEN: If I appear before you in response to the sentiment just expressed, it is not for the purpose of addressing you; and I shall do nothing more on the present occasion than to repeat what I gave utterance to just twelve months ago on an occasion like this. I have spoke

lemonstrations of popularity.

Speeches followed by the Hon. S. S. Marshall of Illinois, he Hon. B. F. Boyer of Pennsylvania, the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, Attorney-General Stanbery, and Senator Doo-

ic. Thomas B. Florence then read, on behalf of the

Johnson, Attorney-General Statibery, and Scintor Doclittle.

Col. Thomas B. Florence then read, on behalf of the
President, the remarks made by him on the last anniversary of the Battle of New-Orleans, to the effect that no
State had a right to renounce its place in or to withdraw
from the Union, and that Congress had no power under
the Constitution to exclude or degrade the people of any
State, by reducing them to a mere territorial dependency
on the Federal head.

Ex-President Fierce, in his letter, writes, referring to
the battle of New-Orleans: "By whom was that battle
fought! Where were the homes of the men, the result of
whose steady courage on that sih of January carried, as
the news spread, not only a fresh feeling of national security, but shed radiant gladness in every hamlet, every
valley, and along every hill-side throughout the land."

Were not the soldiers under the command and leadership of Gen. Jackson the fathers and grandfathers of citizens now disfranchised, ruined in estate, and in the
want and suffering of their families; paralyzed and heid
down by a despotism, clothed with the authority of
might to execute upon the weak and heipless the behests
of vengeance. I am sure, especially if I were
with you. I would not help contrasting the
career of Tennessee, her politics, and domestic franquility, her increasing wealth and power during the life of
the sage and hero, whose memory is embalined in the
hearts of all who will be at your banquet, with the deplorably humiliating reign of absolutism in the State
which preëminently he loved and adored. It cannot be
otherwise than salutary at all times, and particularly on
such an occasion as you celebrate, to recall the
events of our foreign wars, from the Revolution
to the treaty of peace with Mexico, and to remember
that she blood of the gallant men, North and South, fighting side by side in a common cause, mingled on every
battle field. If the prosperity of all the Colonies, and
later, of all the States, and the united provess of their

when statesmanship, humanity, and patriotism will better meet the demands of the nation than mild theories outside of the Constitution, a wicked malevolence toward neighbors if they happen to be of our race, and a selfish chinging to power, place, and plunder.

The Hon. Geo. H. Pendleton writes:

My Dear Sir: I regret that I cannot participate in your celebration of the 8th inst. It will be an occasion of unusual interest. The attempted Africanization of the 10 Southern States under the false pretense of reconstruction of the Union; the utter subversion of the Constitution to accomplish this end; the profligacy and corruption prevailing many branches of the public service, have brought out their proper results. The reaction against the revolutionizing violence and license of the past few years has at last commenced. Its progress will be aided by a worthy contemplation of the life and character of Jackson, of his fervent patriotism, of his persistent energy, his unyielding courage, of the fidelity with which he maintained the rights, and dignity, and equality of the States, at the same that he enforced obedience to the Constitution. It will be well to remember by whom, and where, and for what purpose, the battle of the war of 1812 was fought, and, side by side with that recollection, to place the fact that the State then saved from a foreign foe is now gained by military power, in order to compel its people to adopt a constitution which they do not approve, and to establish institutions which they abhor. The retrospect will evoke sympathies and awaken sensibilities, in the midst of which we may hope that hatred, and butterness, and vengeance will melt away, and that kindness, and good will, and charity will cement the Union by the ties of interest, affection, and contentment, which alone can effectual constitute us one people. Very respectfully,

The Hon. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts; in his

The Hon. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts; in his letter says:

"There never was a time in our history when it was more important to awake the dormant sensibilities of mutual good will and national fraternity, from one end of the land to the other. It cannot be that the generous and magnanious men of the North can much longer cheerish or endure the domination of a vindictive passion or retributive revenge in dealing with their vanquished and bleeding brothers at the South, still less exchange the cordial welcome home of foreigners for a trembling traffic in a strained and hampered mercy. For my own part I am ashamed of this unmanly distrust and fearful suspicion of our prostrate fellow citizens. Is there anything in the purpose or result of the war which justifies the victor in such a fratricial quarrel in throttling his fee after he is down, and holding up his hands in defeat and dispair! No brave man in his personal quarrel will treat thus an opponent who acknowledges defeat and renounces further warfare. But to refuse to forgive and forget the past enmity of our own flesh and blood, to scornfully sneer at his premises and protests and try to extort fallactous security from his deep distress, is not only an unworthy rancour and a pittful timidity. It is a folly of a fatal character. Men and people may fight and when the fight is over shake hands and grow faster friends than ever. And so might we but for confidence of assured power, suspicious demands for security, and humiliating imposition of terms. No reconciliation ever sprang from fear. This may not be statesmanship, but I believe it to be human nature, and that is a good enough substitute for me.

I can offer in conclusion no sontiment so appropriate to the event which has called you together, or more congenial to the spirit which pervades its purpose, than the poetry at the end of President Unicolv's inaugural: "The poetry at the end of President Unicolv's inaugural: "The

I can effer in conclusion no sentiment so appropriate to the event which has called you together, or more congenial to the spirit which pervades its purpose, than the poetry at the end of President Lincoln's inaugural: "The mystic cords of memory stretching from every battle field and every patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the charm of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angel of our nature."

Gov. B. F. Perry writes from Greenville, S. C.:

Would to God it were in my powerflope with you and the generous patriots who will assembled on that occusion to do honor to a Southern here and Southern soldiers, and rearouse a noble sympathy for the decendents of those who so nobly illustrated the patriotism at d prowess of the American citizens. The Southern heart, crushed and broken by terrific calamities, social and political, appeals at this time to every generous and manly feeling of the North. Never before in the history of Christian and civilized people has such infamy and ruin, wide-spread and universal, been inflicted on a whole section of the country, without distinction between the guilty and the innocent. It is well known that a large portion of the Southern people were opposed to the secession of the States from the Federal Unioff, and did all they could do for years to prevent the happening of so dire a calamity to the Republic. They have suffered the distruction of their property, the loss of their homes, and the death of their sons and husbands, are now, as a reward for their devotion to the Union, they are doomed to negro supremacy and the barbarie rule of their sones, and the death of their sons and husbands, are now, as a reward for their devotion to the Union, they are doomed to negro sus premacy and the barbarie rule of the Southern States is frightfully appailing, affections, and they are stealing, robbing, and murdering. The prisons and penitentiaries are filled with them, thi it has become timpossible to pr

THE SOUTHERN CONVENTIONS.

MISSISSIPPI.

IZATION. Jackson, Miss., Jan. 8.—The Mississippi State

Convention assembled to-day, and spent the day in effecting a permanent organization. B. B. Eggleston of Lowndes County, for President, received 53 votes, and J. W. C. Watson of Marshall, the opposing candidate, M. T. P. Sayres was elected Secretary. All the officers chosen are white.

VIRGINIA.

THE ALLEGIANCE CLAUSE OF THE BILL OF

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 8.—The Convention to-day spent the day chiefly in aftreen minute speeches on the second section of the Bill of Rights making stlegtance to the United States paramount to allegiance to the State.

GEORGIA

GEORGIA.

REASSEMBLING OF THE CONVENTION.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. S.—The Reconstruction Convention reassembled this morning pursuant to adjournment. One hundred and two members of the 169 elected appeared in their seats.

A resolution of welcome to Gen. Meade was adopted after some discussion, and a Committee appointed to wait upon that officer.

An ordinance to reduce the per diem from \$9 to \$6 was indefinitely postponed.

A resolution was introduced to inquire into the authority by which members of this Convention hold their seats. On a motion to suspend the rules for its immediate reference, a delegate said he favored the suspension, as it would enable him to offer a substitute to call on the Registrar-General to furnish the official figures of the registration vote in Georgia. The Convention refused to suspend by a heavy vote, and immediately adjourned.

THE SOUTHERN STATES.

THE CONDITION OF THE FREEDMEN. REPORT OF A TOUR OF INSPECTION THROUGH SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND MISSISSIPPI.

SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND MISSISIPPI.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—Gen. Howard, Commissioner for the Freedmen's Bureau, has received a report from Brevet Brig.—Gen. T. D. Sewell, Acting Assistant Inspector—General, dated Holly Springs, Miss., Dec. 29, and giving a statement of a late tour of inspection through the States of South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi. In regard to matters in Georgia, Gen. Sewell states that they are generally in a satisfactory condition. In the upper counties the freedmen are doing well, but the reports from the lower counties of the Southern part of the State indicate that there is some lawlessness among them, resulting from the unsettled condition of affairs in that part of the State. The planters are unable to pay their hands. This produces discontent, and no doubt in many instances the freedmen have sought remedy for supposed wrongs in acts of violence; but this has prevailed to no great extent, and Gen. Sewell had learned of no serious outbreak. The complaints are that the negroes plunder, and, in some instances, seize the erops for their wages. Gen. Lewis was to leave Atlanta for that part of the State on the 26th uilt, to personally investigate the complaints, and inaugurate measures to prevext their recurrence. Gen. Sewell also writes: At present there is little or no destitution in that State, and no need of aid, except to hospitals and asylums. The Superintendent of Schools is prosecuting the work vigorously, and with the most practical results. Gen. Sewell has had an interview with Gen. Ord in relation to matters in Mississippl, as also with citizens and persons from different parts of the State. He expresses some difference of opinion with Gen. Ord as to there being much cause for apprehension of serious trouble there, and states that there are in his office many letters and papers from different parts of the State, purporting to give the condition of affairs as they exist, but they fear may take place, and personal appeals for aid from indigent white people; also, petition Washington, Jan. 8 .- Gen. Howard, Com-

GEORGIA.

REASSEMBLING OF THE CONVENTION - GEN. MEADE VISITED BY GOV. JENKINS AND GOV.

ATLANTA, Jan. 8,-The Georgia Convention net here this morning, 120 members being present. Gov. Patton of Alabama, and Gov. Jenkins of Georgia called on Gen. Meade yesterday. Gen. Swayne arrived from Montgomery this evening.

Boston, Jan. 8.—Samuel Nicolson, the inventor of the Nicolson phyement, in use in New-York and Chicago, is dead.

American citizens! Whatever may be before us, let us hope that the perion is not remote when the Union shall be in fact restored, each State standing forth as the co-equal of every other State, with dignity, equality, and rights unimpaired.

We welcome the conviction that the time is at hand when statesmanship, humanity, and patriotism will better meet the demands of the nation than mild theories outside of the Constitution, a wicked male volence toward.

SENATE.—WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 1868.

Mr. SUMNER (Rep., Mass.) asked and obtained a correction of the journal which did not record his name affirmatively on the passage of the Cotton bill.

CONDITION OF THE SIGUX.

A communication was laid before the Senate by the CHAIR from the Secretary of the Interior in relation to the destitute condition of the Sigux Indians, which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

TAXES ON NATIONAL BASKS.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury in reply to a resolution of inquiry in regard to taxes, &c., on the National Banks, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

to taxes, &c., on the National Banks, which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

A petition was presented from some citizens of Toledo, Ohio, asking for legislation of relief in regard to adopted citizens abroad, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., III.), from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported a bill amending the Bankruptey act, and recommending its indefinite postponement, and

this was agreed to.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

Mr. THAYER (Rep., Nebraska, presented a memorial from some citizens of Nebraska, asking for the relief of naturalized citizens abroad, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES BY GOVERNMENT OF-

Insturalized citizens abroad, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. BY GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.) offered a resolution directing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of affixing a penalty on any officers of the Government who shail authorize an expenditure of, or pay money for, any purpose not previously authorized by law.

Mr. MORRILL urged the necessity of the resolution.

Mr. CONNESS (Rep., Cal.) said that a number of officers had been appointed without any knowledge on the part of Congress of their names or salaries.

Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohie) said that the names had recently been forwarded to Congress.

Mr. CONNESS did not know where, but would like to know. A number of persons had been sent South, on missions connected with the revenue, without ratification by the Senate. It is time an investigation into the matter was had, and he hoped the Committee would make it.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) said the Committee on Retrenchment had the matter now inder consideration, and would give it their best attention.

The resolution was then adopted.

PROCEEDS OF CAPTURED AND ABANDONED PROPEREY.

On motion of Mr. SHERMAN (Rep., Ohio), the Senate again took, up the House bill directing that certain moneys now in the hands of the United States Treasurer, the proceeds of captured and abandoned Rebel property, shall be covered by warrants into the Treasury.

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., Ill.) took the disor. He charged that the Secretary of the Treasury had paid more than \$2,000,000 to disloyal claimants, and that even after an adverse opinion by the Attorney-General he has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The law directed him to pay the proceeds into the Treasury. Mr. Trumbull argued at length, in reply to Mr. Fessenden's speech delivered before the recess. He said the Secretary of the Treasury might as well withhold from the Treasury the amount received from this property to meet claims adjudicated upon, not by the Court of Claims, but by the Secretary of the Treasu

Mr. FESSENDEN (Rep., Mc.) naked that it do had over, as he desired to speak upon it.

After debate by Measrs, EDMUNDS and CONNESS, Mr. SHERMAN moved to postpone its further consideration until to-morrow, for the purpose of taking up the bill in regard to the contraction of the currency, but subsequently withdrew his resolution, a disposition being manifested to continue the debate.

Mr. HOWE (Rep., Wis.) then addressed the Senate in favor of the bill.

After a few remarks by Mr. Edmunds and others, Mr. RAMSEY (Rep., Minn.) moved to go into Executive session, but withdrew his motion at the instance of Mr. Edmunds.

munds.
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUAL RIGHTS BILL.
Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) offered a resolution of inquiry, which was adopted, calling upon the President for information as to whether the bill for the further security of equal rights in the District of Columbia, passed by both Houses, has been delivered to the Secretary of State, and become a law or not, ten days having elapsed since its passage.

since its passage.

PAY OF RETIRED NAVAL OFFICERS.

Mr. GRIMES (thep., lowa) offered a resolution calling on the Attorney-General for copies of the opinion regarding the pay of retired officers of the Navy, which was adopted.

Mr. HOWARD (Rep., Mich.) introduced a bill author-izing writs of error from District to Circuit Courts of the United States, in a certain class of criminal cases, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Mr. MORTON (Rep., Ind.) offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill superseding and providing Provisional Governments for the lately rebellious States until reconstructed under the existing

Mr. TRUMBULL (Rep., Ill.) had no objection to the resolution, except that the Committee should not be instructed beforehand as to their action.

Mr. MORTON said he had considered that matter, and had concluded to take the sense of the Senate upon it.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Rep., Oregon) hoped the Senate would not be committed in advance until they knew what the

Mr. TRUMBULL objecting, the resolution was laid CONTRACTION OF THE CURRENCY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The SPEAKER proceeded, as the regular order of business in the morning hour, to the call of Committees for reports.

Mr. ORTH (Rep., Ind.), from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported a joint resolution requesting the President to intercede with Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain to secure the speedy release of the Rev. John McMahon, a citizen of Indiana, convicted as a Fenian raider, and now confined at Kingston, C. W. Mr. Orth proceeded to state the facts of the case. He represented Father McMahon as having gone to Canada, not for the purpose of engaging in any hostile enterprise, but to look after an inheritance to which he had become entitled there. In the town of Anderson, Ind., where Father McMahon had lived, there had been a Fenian circle—of which, however, he was not a member. In that circle a company was organized to join the Fenian forces which were contemplating an invasion of Canada, and he had accepted an invitation to travel with that company, and free of expense, as far as Buffalo. The company was subsequently engaged in what was called the Battle of Ridgeway, in June, 1866. The Committee on Foreign Affairs had not been able to ascertain whether during the battle Father McMahon had been on the American or on the British side of the river. After the battle, however, he was found on the battle-field of Ridge way engaged in the landable purpose of acting as nurse and priest to his wounded countrymen. He was tried, convicted, and sentence as a harsh one, condemning one of its citizens, who had been guilty of no crime, but at the worst a mere act of indiscretion, to be the life-long associate of felons. The Legislature had therefore instructed its Senators, and requested its Representatives in Gengress to take action in the matter. Its resolution on the subject had been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the measure now reported was the result of the examination of the question by the Committee. Mr. Orth proceeded to argue the international question of

lead them, and to become the citizens of the country in which they may be resident.

Mr. PAINE (Rep., Wis.) asked Mr. Orth whether he

lead them, and to become the citizens of the country in which they may be resident.

Mr. PAINE (Rep., Wis.) asked Mr. Orth whether he would permit an amendment to be offered inserting also the name of John Lynch of Milwankee, Wis., who had been captured at the same time with Father McMahon, and had been condemned to the same punishment.

Mr. ORTH declined to permit the amendment to be offered, not wishing to have Father McMahon's case complicated with any other case.

Mr. CULLOM (Rep., Ill.), who is also a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, spoke in support of the joint resolution. The time had come, he said, when the American Government must assert its rights and the rights of its citizens, and maintain those rights peaceably if possible, and by the power of its armies and navies if necessary. American citizens confined in British basitiles were calling on their Government for protectionnot to be protected in the commission of crime, but to be secured in their rights as American citizens. He claimed that there were no gradations in the rights of citizens. All, whether native born or adopted citizens, were entitled to the same and equal rights. Mr. Cullom proceeded to argue in the same circution as Mr. Orth the question of the right of expatriation, quoting Cloero, Aristotle, Vattel, and other ancient and modern writers, in support of that right, and characterizing Blackstone's adverse dictum on the subject as a driveling statement. The morning hour expired during the discussion, and the joint resolution went over till to-morrow.

MERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

The SPEAKER presented resolutions of a public meeting at New-Haven, Conn., on the rights of American citizens abroad, and a memorial on the same subject, signed by Gov. English, Mayor Spring, and several thousand citizens. Referred to Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. DONNELLY (Rep., Minn.) presented the petition of citizens of Minnesota on the same subject, and it was similarly referred.

INDIAN LANDS IN KANSAS.

The SPEAKER presented a communication f

Messrs. MYERS (Rep., Penn.) and KELLEY (Rep., Penn.) presented a petition signed by over 1,500 manufacturers and operatives, in each of their Congressional districts, engaged in the production of hand-looms asking for the repeal of the tax now levied on such production, which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.
THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REV Mr. SCHENCK (Rep., Ohio) offered a resolution for printing for the use of the House 10,000 copies of the re-

port of the special commissioner of the Revenue with all the appendixes, and 1,600 copies for the use of the Treasury Department. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Printing.

THE NATIONAL ASYLUM FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

Mr. SCHENCK also offered a resolution calling the attention of the Committee on Millitary Affairs and the Board of Managers of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers to the idea of making provision at the Central Asylum and its branches for furnishing and repairing hereafter artificial limbs free of cost to disabled soldiers, the work to be done by mechanics who are inmates of the Asylum. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. SCHENCK also offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the transfer of the Soldiers' Home at Washington, with the property and funds pertaining thereto, to the National Asylum for the reception and support of disabled soldiers of the Regular Army, as well as of volunteers, and of changing the name of the institution to the National Soldiers' Home. The resolution was adopted.

The Repeal of the COTTON TAX.

and support of disabled soldiers of the Regular Army, as well as of volunteers, and of changing the name of the institution to the National Soldiers' Home. The resolution was adopted.

THE REPEAL OF THE COTTON TAX.

The Senate amendments to the bill repealing the Cotton tax were taken from the Speaker's table and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

THE CONTESTED MISSOURI SEAT.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the report of the Election Committee on the contested election cases of the Vith Congressional District of Missouri, which report closes with resolutions that James H. Birch, the contestant, is not entitled to the seat, and that Robert S. Van Horn, the sitting member, is entitled to it.

After speeches by Mr. POLAND (Rep., Vt.), in support of the report of the Committee, the contestant, the sitting member, and Mr. KERR (Dem., Ind.), the resolutions were adopted.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The SPEAKER presented a message from the President, with accompanying papers from the State Department, under the requirements of the act regulating the diplomatic and consular system, which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The SPEAKER also presented a message from the President, with a report from the Secretary of State, in reference to the alleged interference of Russian Naval vessels with whaling vessels of the United States (in response to a resolution offered by Mr. Eliot), which received the same reference.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

He also presented communications from the Secretary of War ad interim, with reports from the secretary of the live military districts relative to swamp lands, and with them a report from the Chief of Ordinance relative to the manufacture and repair of arms at the Springfield Armory, for the year ending June 30, 1867.

THE INTENAL REVENUE LAWS.

Mr. BROOMALL (Rep., Pa.) offered a resolution directing the Committee on ways and Means to inquire into the expediency of immediately abolishing the Internal Revenue at a cof

the United States.
Mr. ELDRIDGE (Dem., Wis.) objected, and the resolu-The House at 4:15 o'clock adjourned.

POLITICAL.

THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION FIXED FOR

ALBANY, Jan. 8.-The Republican State Central Committee to-day only polled two votes against an early assembling of the State Convention. The 5th of February was fixed so that New-York could lead off in the movement of sending delegates to Chicago

The meeting of the State Council of the Union League to-day was very encouraging. Preparations were made for a vigorous Presidential campaign. The old officers

After the meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic adjourned last night, an informal meeting was held which nominated Gen. Grant for President. This gave rise to the report, which was prevalent to-day, that the organiza tion has officially proclaimed the General as their choice

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Fenton Campaign Club of this District was held at their headquarters, No. 21 Avenue D, onfTuesday evening, the President, Mr. John Duke, in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected delegates to the Central Club: Stephen M. Wright, Wm. Mitchell, and Wm. E. Cargill. This is one of the districts where a man should be honored for being a Republican.

THE CONTEST FOR SPEAKER IN THE LEGISLA-

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 8 .- There is no change committee would report.

Mr. MORTON said the Senate was not bound to support any bill the Committee might report.

Nr. CONKLING (Rep., N. Y.) thought the proposition rather circumlocutory. Why not, he asked, save time by any circumstances, and the friends of Mr. Davis are equally unyielding. The Democratic State Central Com-mittee has deemed it best to take no action in the matter, and to make no recommendation to its party members. Meanwhile the Democrats have some hopes that affairs will so change as to give them the Speaker. Such a result

> HARRISBURG, Jan. 8 .- The friends of a "Free HARRISBURG, Jan. 8.—The friends of a "Free Railroad Law" are determined to force the appointment of a Committee on Railroads favorable to their measure, by refusing to allow the House to organize until their demands are guaranteed. Every hour, therefore, the excitement on the Speakership increases. This afternoon, Mr. Camant, the candidate of the nine bolters, was withdrawn. Mr. Ewing was immediately nominated, and hence the votes stand the same as yesterday—Jones, Dem., 56; Davis, Rep., 45; Ewing, 9.

INDIANA.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

INDIANOPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 8 .- The Democratic State Convention assembled here to-day, and every county in the State was represented by delegates. The Hon William E. Niblack was chosen temporary chairman. The Committee on Permanent Organization reported, as President of the Convention, the Hon. Joseph E. McDonald of Marien, and Vice-Presidents from each Congres

sional District.

Mr. McDonald, in an address to the Convention, briefly reviewed the course of the Republican party, arraigning it as tyrannical, and its Reconstruction measures as oppressive and unjust, depriving the Southern States of a voice in the affairs of the nation. Upon the pressive and unjust depriving the Southern States of a voice in the affairs of the nation. Upon the financial question, he said the Democratic party intended to hold the Republican party to its obligations according to the intent and letter thereof. In regard to the payment of the national bonds, he said that if a widow was compelled to draw her pension for the life-blood of her husband in greenbacks, the same currency is sufficient for bendholders. He indersed the course of President Johnson, and commended him for resisting the Republican party. He asked for them indulgence and patience from the Democratic party. If the President seemed tardy in carrying out the principles of the Constitution, it was because he saw further into their designs. Knowing them, he knew best how and when to check the progress of the Republican party. Mr. McDonald was frequently interrupted by appliance.

The Committee on Resolutions was appointed, one member from each Congressional District: 1st District, Calvin Jones; Hd, J. A. Cranens; Hd, William Holman; IVth, Geo. Berry; Vth, A. M. Puett; Vth, Thomas Dowling; Vtith, Archibald Johnson; Vilth, David Moss; IXth, Edmond Johnson; Xth, John R. Colfroth; Xith, Charles H. Reeves.

H. Reeves.

Committees were appointed to select delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and to appoint electors at large. A recess was then taken.

THE SPIRIT OF THE CONVENTION. INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 8 .- The Convention

did its work quite as successfully as the managers ex-pected. A hopeful spirit was manifested throughout. The party evidently regards itself as in the ascendant in this State. All the great and small leaders of the party were present, and every County fully represented. Senator Hendricks was nominated for Gov by acclamation, but the rest of the ticket was chosen with much trouble, the places being much coveted. The ticket as presented is generally acceptable and is pronounced strong enough, every interest being consulted in making it up. A great many gentlemen were desirous of making speeches, only three of whom were successful. Joseph McDonald, the permanent Chairman, on taking the thwart the Radicals. He said if the party succeeded it would be solely because of the President's moral courage. At night Senator Hendricks made an elaborate speech to the Convention, declaiming on the ordinary topics of his party in the West. His attack on the bonds and the banks was most vigorously applanded. D. W. Voorhees followed in a speech in which he referred to the Constitution of the United States, and this closed the Convention.

THE KANSAS BRANCH OF THE PACIFIC RAIL-ROAD-ACTION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 8.-Resolutions were troduced into the Missouri Legislature yesterday requesting Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State to vote and use all their influence for securing the passage of an act granting the Union Pacific Railway. Kansas branch, subsidies equal to those enjoyed by the Omaha road, that it may be extended through New-Mexico and Arizona to San Francisco, and also form a junction with the Union Pacific in Colorado.

PRICE FOUR CENTS. INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN PEACE COMMISSION. To the President of the United States:

The undersigned, Commissioners appointed under the Act of Congress, approved July 20, 1867, "to authorized by said act to call together the chiefs and head men of such bands of Indians; as were then waging war, for the purpose of ascertaining their reasons for hostility, and, if thought advisable, to make treaties with

them having in view the following objects: them having in view the following objects:

First: To remove, if possible, the causes of war.

Second: To secure as far as practicable our frontier
settlements, and the safe building of the railroad looking
to the Pacific.

Third: To suggest or inaugurate some plan for the
civilization of those Indians.

Congress, in the passage of the law, seemed to indicate the policy of collecting, at some early day, all the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains on one or more reservations, and with that view it was made our duty to examine an

and with that view it was made our duty to examine and select "a district or districts of country having sufficient area to receive all the Indian tribes occupying territory east of the said mountains not now peacefully residing on permanent reservations under treaty stipulations," &c. It was required that these reservations should have sufficient analog or grazing lands to enable the tribes placed on them to support themselves, and that they should be so located as not to interfere with established highways of travel and the contemplated rullroads to the Pacific Ocean. The subsequent action and approval of Congress will be necessary, however, to dedicate the district or districts so selected to the purposes of exclusive Indian settlement.

should be so located as not to interire with established highways of travel and the contemplated railroads to the Pacific Ocean. The subsequent action and approval of Congress will be necessary, however, to dedicate the district or districts so selected to the purposes of exclusive Indian settlement.

When the act was passed war was being openly waged by several hostile tribes, and great diversity of opinioa existed among the officials of the Government, and no less diversity among our people, as to the means along would successor theroughly subtued by force of arms, and concession to the latter sentiment, so largely prevailing, as well as to meet the possible contingency of failure by the Commission, it was, perhaps, wisely provided that in case pence could not be obtained by treaty, or should the Indians fail to comply with the stipulations they might make for going on their reservations, the President might call out four regiments of mounted troops for the purpose of conquering the desired peace.

On the 6th of August we met at St. Louis, Mo., and organized by selecting N. G. Taylor, President, and A. S. H. White, Secretary. The first difficulty presenting itself was to receive an interview with the Chief's and leading warriors of these hostile tribes. They were roaming over an immense country, thousands of miles in extent, and much of it unknown even to hunters and trappers of the white race. Small war parties, constantly emerging from this vast extent of unexplored country, would suddenly strike the border settlements, killing the men and carrying into captivity the women and children. Companies of workmen on the railroads, at points hundreds of miles from each other, would be attacked on the same day, perhaps in the same hour. Overland mail coaches could not be run without military escort, and railroad and military stations ungraarded by soldiery were in perpetual danger. All safe transit across the Plains had ceased. To go without soldiers was hazardous in the extreme, to go with them forbade reasonable

souri River. The steamer St. Johns was chartered, and such goods purchased as were thought suitable as presents to the Indians.

On the 18th of August we met at Fort Leavenworth, and took the statement of Major-Gen. Hancock, Gov. Crawford of Kansas, Father De Smet, and others. Thence we proceeded to Omaha, Nebraska, and took the statement of Major-Gen. Augur and others. At Yankton we met Gov. Faulk of Dakota, and took his evidence on subjects embraced in our duties. Gov. Faulk, at our request, accompanied the Commission up the river, and was present at the subsequent interviews with the Indians of his superintendency.

Owing to the low stage of water, our progress up the river was much retarded, and we falled to reach Fort Rice as we intended. On the 30th of August, a point 12 miles above the mouth of the Big Cheyenne River was reached, when it was found necessary to turn back, in order to fill our several engagements made with the Indians on the river as we went up, and then reached Fort Laramie by the 13th of September.

On the return trip councils were held with various bands of the Sioux or Dakota Indians at Forts Sully and Thompson, and also at Yankton, Ponce, and Santa Soux Reservations, full reports of which will be found in the appendix. Although these Indians along the Mission River are not hostile, and do not therefore legitimately come within the scope of duties assigned to us, yet it was thought quite important, in determining whether the country itself was fit for an Indian Reservation, to examine into the condition of those now there, and especially those endeavoring to live by agriculture.

The time given us was too short to make anything like a personal inspection of so large a district of uninhabited country as that which lies north of Nebraska, between the Missouri River on the east and the Black Hills on the west, and to which public attention is now being very generally directed as a home for the more northern tribes.

tribes.
We took evidence of those who had traversed this re-

on the west, and to which public attention is now being very generally directed as a home for the more northern tribes.

We took evidence of those who had traversed this region in reference to the soil, climate, and productions, which evidence will be found in the appendix. To this subject we shall axain allude when we come to speak of reservations for Indian settlement.

In this connection, however, before returning to the thread of our narrative, it is our duty to remark that the condition of those tribes demands prompt and serious attention. The treaty stipulations with many of them are altogether inappropriate. They seem to have been made in total ignorance of their numbers and disposition, and in utter disregard of their wants. Some of the agents now among them should be removed and men appointed who by honesty, fair dealing, and unselfish devotion to duty, secure their respect and confidence. Where the present treaties fail to designate a particular place as a home for the tribe, they should be changed.

Returning to Omaha on the 11th of September the steamer was discharged and we immediately proceeded to the North Platte, on the Pacific Railroad, where we found a considerable number of the Sioux and Northera Cheyennes, some of whom had been friendly, while others had but recently been engaged in war. A council was held with them, which at one time threatened to result in no good, but finally a full and perfect understanding was arrived at, which, though not then nor even yet reduced to writing, we have every reason to believe has been faithfully kept by them.

It was at this council that the hitherto untried policy in connection with Indians of endeavoring to conquer by kindness was inaugurated. Swift Bear, a Brule chief, then and now a faithful friend of the whites, had interested himself to induce the hostile bands to come into this council, and had promised them, if peace were made, that ammunition should be given them to Rull game for the winter. This promise was not authorized by the Commissioners,